



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 5/31/2005

GAIN Report Number: TH5054

Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2005

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Report Highlights:

Export prices were offered lower in response to the weakening Thai Baht. However, domestic prices remain steady at high levels.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending May 30):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	425	395	-	440	450	395	395	417	425
WR 100 B	300	298	-	296	302	293	290	297	299
PB 5%	288	285	-	292	296	295	285	290	293
WR 5%	295	293	-	288	295	287	285	291	292
WR 10%	290	285	-	287	291	284	280	286	288
WR 15%	275	280	-	284	287	272	275	279	281
WR 25%	265	268	-	282	270	258	270	269	271
WR 35%	262	263	-	269	265	256	265	263	265
A 1 SUP	222	223	-	207	223	215	210	217	220
A 1 SPEC	220	222	-	205	222	-	208	215	219
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for most grades of rice were offered lower by U.S.\$ 2-3/MT due to the weakening of the Thai Baht to the six-month low at 40.2 baht/U.S.\$. However, domestic prices of white rice remain steady at high levels in response to the government intervention program, which stockpiles white rice paddy of around 3.0 million tons. Domestic prices are not expected to surge from the current high levels, as foreign buyers still stay away from Thai rice which is much more expensive than Vietnamese rice. Also, trade sources reported that current favorable weather conditions will likely result in the better than expected second crop production. Meanwhile, fragrant rice prices will likely be under downward pressure because foreign buyer's demand for traditional Thai fragrant rice, particularly from Asian countries, reportedly continued to shift to another Thai fragrant rice strain, Pathumthani fragrant rice, which is still cheaper by around U.S.\$ 60-80/MT, as compared to around U.S.\$ 100/MT during previous months.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
APR 10	89,073	98,804	1,536	1,701
APR 17	64,932	91,173	1,600	1,790
APR 24	127,541	100,736	1,728	1,955
MAY 1	118,886	100,108	1,847	2,107
MAY 8	102,422	103,445	1,949	2,108
MAY 15	92,855	110,426	2,042	2,450
MAY 22	99,437	103,400	2,142	2,591
MAY 29	63,446	89,540	2,205	2,747

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for May 23-29, 2005 totaled 63,446 tons, down 35,991 tons from the previous week's total and down 26,094 tons from the four-week moving average of 89,540 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – May 29, 2005 amounted to 2,205,075 tons, as compared with 2,746,849 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – May 18, 2005, amounted to 2,918,521 tons, down 14 percent from 3,372,923 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of May 9-13, May 16-20, and May 23-27, 2005 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	May 9-13	May 16-20	May 23-27
weekly sales	112,072	95,797	89,819
4 week sum	427,181	392,955	374,216
4 week mov. avg.	106,795	98,239	93,554
Total weekly sales	2,078,749	2,174,546	2,264,365

End of Report.